THE EXCITER

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MARCH CLUB MEETINGS ON THE 3rd & 17th 8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES ST.

HOUSE BILL 300

In the present session of the State Legislature, Representative Roland W. Bridges of Corpus Christi, will introduce House Bill 300 to be known as "The Television-Radio Licensing Act". The stated purpose of this bill would be to create a Texas State Board of Television-Radio Examiners. These Examiners would have the power to grant licenses to persons or firms permitting them to do business as Radio and TV repairmen. The Board would also have the power to refuse a license if they so desire. If you repair a TV or a record player or a tape recorder or a crystal set and do not have a license from the State, you may be fined and given up to 30 days in jail.

Before we get into any further discussion of this act, it must be noted that the exemptions are so designed that almost anyone except the man who makes his living as a repairman is exempt from the provisions of the Act. It seems rather obvious that the law was designed and introduced for the purpose of restriction and not for protection. The law is also to be introduced as an emergency measure for the "public NECESSITY and general WELFARE of the people of Texas and the Constitutional Rule requiring three readings before the House is to be suspended.

Do you really believe that the general welfare of the people of Texas is in jeopardy because Joe Serviceman does not have a State License? Of course not! The welfare will be the welfare of the same interests that are sponsoring the Act. We have all seen the length that these greedy interests will go in an effort to eliminate competition. Where is the competition coming from? It is coming from the small business man who gives his customers a full measure of service at a reasonable price. He cannot go along with the large concerns who try to regulate the prices he will charge. It may be that his customers cannot afford to pay the high prices some concerns charge.

But the real challenge is whether Government, local, state or federal, should have the right to determine who may work at a given trade. We all can see the need for licensing such professions as physicians, dentists and pharmacists, but can you see any legitimate reason for the descriminate selection of a trade for this purpose. The TV repairman does not prescribe drugs or even touch his customers. Yet he would be controlled just like a doctor. The chef at the finest cafe in town is not licensed but he prepares food for consumption by the public. The auto mechanic will reline and adjust the brakes of a two-ton car that can be just a lethal as the loaded gun in the hands of a child, yet he isn't required to be licensed.

Once a law such as this is on the books, it is almost impossible to ever do away with it. What is more important is that the basic law may even be harmless as written, then the interpretations and amendments are made and the next thing you know it may even be necessary for a ham to be licensed by the state to change a tube in his receiver. More important is that

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W5DKF, Program chairman

the proposed law denys the right for a man to make a living. I am sure that Mr. Bridges is a loyal American, dedicated to doing the things that will make our state a better place to live. However, Mr. Bridges has been placed in a position of introducing a bill that is not only un-American, but is contrary to the very way of life that Americans have fought and died for.

We all complain about too much government interference in our private lives and business . . . well here is a chance to do something about it. This is your fight! Just because you are a ham and not a repairman doesn't mean you will be left out of the picture when the time comes. You can do your part by writing to our State Representatives and Senators. A letter, telegram or postal card will do. If you know any of them personally, talk to them and show them what this law really means to the people of Texas. Don't forget that unless they know your feelings on matters such as these they may vote for it. When you contact another ham in Texas, ask him to write his representative too.

Here is a partial list of Senators and Representatives and their home towns. Write them at: Capitol Station, Austin, Texas.

Senators: R. A. Weinert, Seguin; Henry B. Gonzales, San Antonio.

Representatives: Henry A. Fletcher, Luling; R. A. Bartram, New Braunfels; Jake Johnson, San Antonio; Franklin Spears, San Antonio; Stanford Smith, San Antonio; V. E. Berry, San Antonio; Marshall O. Bell, San Antonio; James E. Barlow, San Antonio; John C. Alaniz, San Antonio.

Don't put it off, write now.

M. D., K5PKX

VHF AND UP

The Six Meter Club of San Antonio is offering chances on a Jones Micromatch to be given away on 6 April '61. Chances are 25c apiece or 5 for $1, available from any club member or Radio and TV Parts Co. Drawing will be held at Mezzinene C of the Gunter Hotel at 1930 on 6 April. You do not have to be present to win.

A working award is being offered to any memebr of the Six Meter club who contacts 100 different 50 mc. stations starting 6 April. There is no closing date and the prize is $25 cash. In this case, however, you must be a member of the club to win.

Bill Hamrick, K5PWX, president of the 6M club provided names of the other officers of the club: K5VGD, Secretary-treasurer; W5DKP, Net Control; K5AIU, Entertainment chairman; K5DGJ, executive committee

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FRED K5ENK PAUL K5OHG JIM K5TYI

member; K5PIB, alternate executive committee member.

Watch for the orbiting of a satellite which will relay on 137 mc. the signals broadcast by the Navy VLF station NBA on 16.6 kc. from the Canal Zone. This will be the first satellite to use the new frequency allocated for space vehicles—136 to 137 mc. The old 108 mc. channel will revert to the FM band and VANGUARD I which has squatters rights.

In the area of VLF emissions, W5VJA and W5LFM have observed that automobile ignition and generator noise can be heard when a car passes as much as several hundred ft. from the VLF antenna. A car effectively puts out radio energy from several kc. to way past several hundred mc!

A 2nd source of broadband impulse type noise is lightning. Lightning can be heard rumbling as low as tens of cycles and has been observed on 9300 mc. radar scopes with the radar TX cut off. Below 20 cycles, the radio noise from lightning sounds like the rumbling of bongo drums as beat on by a cool DXer during a DX contest. It's not easy to preserve this frequency on a tape recorder because of the extremely low frequency. Oh, for a high-fi set with a reel-gone long wire! Regards, Cal Graf, W5LFM.

DX NOTES

The first half of the ARRL Phone and CW DX contests is over; and despite disappointing conditions there was plenty of excitement. The new African Republics were well represented by FF4AL, 9G1DS, 7G1A, 9U5UL, 6W8AP, FF7AB and others. With the poor conditions that prevailed and the enormous pile-ups, QSO's with these rare places were hard to come by. The biggest pile-ups of all, however, wailed and moaned around KH6ECD! Obviously not just another KH6, the QTH of KH6ECD is

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your Representatives in Austin
asking that they vote
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Kure Island, 220 miles north of the Midway Islands. Kure has already been virtually assured of separate country status by DXCC. If you missed him, like most of us did, do not dispair. KH6ECD will be operated regularly until after the second halves of the DX contest by a group of Coast Guardsmen. Listen for them on 7205, 14300, 21400 and 28650 SSB, or 7017, 14050, 21050 and 28050 CW. QSL's go via KM6BI. Another "goodie" to watch for on 20 CW is VK9GP. He's not just another New Guinea station; his QTH is the very rare Norfolk Island, and he will be there for several months.

On the local scene congratulations are in order for W5EJT. Gene is the possessor of a brand new DXCC membership certificate; checking in with quite a few countries to spare! For any of you DX newcomers who may need a little help, Gene is a good man to know. He has helped many of us "oldtime" DX'ers snag a new one!

Well it's QRU for now, so until next time, 73 and DX.

Len, W5LGG

GUTTER DOPE

We hear that W5RSD is getting to be a real SSB DXer. Of course, his XYL's sweet voice could help his getting through the pileups. Her call is K5OPV.

W5EJT is busy working on his 80 Meter vertical with ground radials.

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